GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:69
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2007
` IT RETURN PREPARERS SCHEME`
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced Tax Return Preparers (TRPs) Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the purpose sought to be achieved by this scheme;

(c) the number of Tax Return Preparers trained under the Scheme;

(d) the condition of services of TRPs;

(e) whether the services of the Tax Return Preparers is likely to be utilized by Institutions like Insurance and Banks to promote them; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tax Return Preparer Scheme has been launched to provide help to small and medium tax-payers in the form of Tax Return Preparers to assist them to filing of their income-tax returns. The purposes sought to be achieved are reduction of cost of compliance for small and marginal tax-payers, increase of awareness of tax laws among tax-payers and to provide opportunities for self-employment to unemployed and under employed graduates who function as Tax Return Preparers.

(c) 3737 certified Tax Return Preparers have trained under the scheme.

(d) Tax Return Preparers (TRPs) are not Government employees nor are they agents of the Government, and as such, no conditions of service have been prescribed for them. However, the parameters under which they can conduct their profession as TRPs are prescribed in the Tax Return Preparer Scheme notified in the Gazette of India vide S.O. 2039(E) on 28.11.2006.

(e) & (f) Tax Return Preparers can file returns of income of small and marginal tax-payers only and their services cannot be utilised by Public Sector Institutions like Insurance and Banks to file their returns. At present there is no proposal by these institutions to utilise the services of Tax Return Preparers in any other manner.